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A seven-legged pholcid spider from Egypt (Araneida: Pholcidae)

Hisham K. El-Hennawy
41, El-Manteqa El-Rabia St., Heliopolis, Cairo 11341, Egypt
E-mail: el_hennawy@hotmail.com

Abstract

The second seven-legged spider is here recorded. It belongs to family Pholcidae. This male *Artema atlanta* Walckenaer, 1837 was collected from Burg El-Arab, in the Mediterranean region north of Egypt.

Keywords: Spiders, Araneida, Pholcidae, Seven-legged, Egypt.

Among a collection of arthropods from the western area of the Mediterranean coast of Egypt made by Drs. A.H. Ali and T. Tantawi of the Faculty of Science of Alexandria University, I found a seven-legged pholcid male spider. It was collected from the area of El-Mallahat near Burg El-Arab, about 50 km west of Alexandria (30°55'36"N, 29°31'50"E, elevation 20m), on 19 September 1998, by Drs. A.H. Ali and T. Tantawi. It is now deposited in the Arachnid Collection of Egypt (ACE 19980919-01).

This specimen is identified as *Artema atlanta* Walckenaer, 1837, a pantropical pholcid species (Platnick, 2007) which is widely distributed in Egypt (El-Hennawy, 2006). It has four right legs and only three left legs. There is only one leg instead of the 1st and 2nd left legs (Fig.1).

The first recorded seven-legged spider was a female *Larinioides suspicax* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1876) of Family Araneidae (El-Hennawy, 2002). It was also collected from the Mediterranean region of Egypt. It had only three legs at the left side too.

This is the second case of a seven-legged spider which I could find in Egypt. There is no other published records of this kind until now.



Fig. 1. Seven-legged *Artema atlanta* male, dorsal view (left) and ventral view (right).

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References

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